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JC928 U.S. PTO
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02/21/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re

U.S. application of: Yoshikazu IKENOUE, Hideo KUMASHIRO,
and Munehiro NAKATANI

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND COPY
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

U.S. Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Filed: Concurrently

Prior Application:

U.S. Serial No.: 08/911,101

Confirmation No.: 3290

Filed: August 14, 1997

Group Art Unit: 2623

Examiner: Jon Chang

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Director

for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

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DATE OF DEPOSIT: FEBRUARY 21, 2002

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to BOX PATENT APPLICATION, Assistant Director for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Derrick T. Gordon

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Signature

February 21, 2002

Date of Signature

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants wish to bring the following items to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the documents are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

No representation is made, and no representation is intended, that more relevant material does not exist, or that the order of presentation of this material in any way reflects its relative pertinence. The references cited below are not intended to constitute an admission of any kind. Specifically, this

presentation is not an admission that the items listed below are properly citable against the above-identified application.

The following documents are cited in the specification of the above-identified patent application:

- (1) Watanabe, U.S. Patent No. 4,837,737, issued June 6, 1989;
- (2) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 02-052384 (CANON INC), published February 21, 1990;
- (3) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 02-111161 (FUJI SHASHIN FILM KABUSHIKI KAISHA), published April 24, 1990;
- (4) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 02-120753 (TOSHIBA CORP), published May 8, 1990;
- (5) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 02-266759, published October 31, 1990;
- (6) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 03-120561 (CANON INC), published May 22, 1991; and
- (7) Yasuhiro Nakamura and Kineo Matsui, "A Unified Coding Method of Image and Text Data Using Three-Level Micro-Patterns", Gazou Denshi Gakkaishi, Vol. 17, No. 1 (1988), pgs. 1-14.

Applicants also wish to bring the following documents to the attention of the Examiner:

- (8) E.F. Hembrooke, U.S. Patent No. 3,004,104, issued October 10, 1961;
- (9) Wicker, U.S. Patent No. 3,784,289, issued January 8, 1974;

- (10) Allen, U.S. Patent No. 4,739,377, issued April 19, 1988;
- (11) Tung, U.S. Patent No. 4,847,641, issued July 11, 1989;
- (12) Obata et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,212,558, issued May 18, 1993;
- (13) Earl et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,231,663, issued July 27, 1993;
- (14) Masuzaki et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,235,681, issued August 10, 1993;
- (15) Wang, U.S. Patent No. 5,243,655, issued September 7, 1993;
- (16) Bühn et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,245,655, issued September 14, 1993;
- (17) Funada et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,257,119, issued October 26, 1993;
- (18) Vincett et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,299,026, issued March 29, 1994;
- (19) Tow, U.S. Patent No. 5,315,098, issued May 24, 1994;
- (20) Wang et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,337,361, issued August 9, 1994;
- (21) Spannenburg, U.S. Patent No. 5,374,976, issued December 20, 1994;
- (22) Nishikawa, U.S. Patent No. 5,418,602, issued May 23, 1995;
- (23) Ohmura, U.S. Patent No. 5,424,807, issued June 13, 1995;

- (24) Suzuki et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,426,710, issued June 20, 1995;
- (25) Udagawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,481,377, issued January 2, 1996;
- (26) Hasuo et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,583,614, issued December 10, 1996;
- (27) Uchida et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,640,253, issued June 17, 1997;
- (28) Ikenoue et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,671,277, issued September 23, 1997;
- (29) Powell et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,721,788, issued February 24, 1998;
- (30) Ikenoue et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,987,127, issued November 16, 1999;
- (31) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No.
(A) 61-285578 (HITACHI, LTD.), published December 16, 1986;
- (32) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No.
(A) 62-256046 (RICOH CO., LTD.), published November 7, 1987;
- (33) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No.
(A) 02-096276 (HITACHI LTD), published April 9, 1990;
- (34) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No.
(A) 04-009963 (RICOH CO., LTD.), published January 14, 1992;
- (35) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No.
(A) 04-343568 (CANON INC), published November 30, 1992;

- (36) "Unauthorized Copy Prevention", IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, June 1975, pgs. 59-60;
- (37) "Document Security System for Copy Machines", IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, January 1981, pgs. 3550-3551;
- (38) "An Improved Method of Embedding Data Into Pictures by Modulo Masking", IEEE Transactions on Communications, March 1988, Vol. 36, No. 3, pgs. 315-331;
- (39) "Embedding Secret Information Into a Dithered Multi-Level Image", MILCOM '90, IEEE, Vol. 1, pgs. 216-220;
- (40) Komatsu et al., "Authentication System Using Concealed Image in Telematics", Memoirs of the School of Science & Engineering, Waseda University, No. 52, pgs. 45-60, 1988; and
- (41) Komatsu et al., "A Proposal on Digital Watermark in Document Image Communication and Its Application to Realizing a Signature", Electronics and Communications in Japan, Part 1, Vol. 73, No. 5, 1990 (translation pgs. 22-33).

Applicants consider the invention to be distinguishable over the above-cited documents.

As this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the application, no fee is incurred. However, if it should be determined that a fee is required, please charge any required fee (other than the issue fee) during the pendency of this application to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Attorney Docket No. 05058/16305

Respectfully submitted,



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February 21, 2002

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	To Be Assigned
				Filing Date	Concurrently
				First Inventor	Yoshikazu IKENOUE et al.
				Group Art Unit	To Be Assigned
				Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket No.	05058/16305

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite #	DOCUMENT NUMBER	C O D E	PATENTEE	ISSUE DATE (mm/dd/yy)	CLASS	SUB CLASS	Filing Date if Appropriate
	(1)	4,837,737		Watanabe	06/06/89	364	900	
	(8)	3,004,104		E.F. Hembrooke	10/10/61	179	2	
	(9)	3,784,289		Wicker	01/08/74	350	321	
	(10)	4,739,377		Allen	04/19/88	355	133	
	(11)	4,847,641		Tung	07/11/89	346	154	
	(12)	5,212,558		Obata et al.	05/18/93	358	296	
	(13)	5,231,663		Earl et al.	07/27/93	380	18	
	(14)	5,235,681		Masuzaki et al.	08/10/93	395	164	
	(15)	5,243,655		Wang	09/07/93	380	51	
	(16)	5,245,655		Bühn et al.	09/14/93	380	18	
	(17)	5,257,119		Funada et al.	10/26/93	358	438	
	(18)	5,299,026		Vincett et al.	03/29/94	358	401	
	(19)	5,315,098		Tow	05/24/94	235	494	
	(20)	5,337,361		Wang et al.	08/09/94	380	51	
	(21)	5,374,976		Spannenburg	12/20/94	355	201	
	(22)	5,418,602		Nishikawa	05/23/95	355	201	
	(23)	5,424,807		Ohmura	06/13/95	355	201	
	(24)	5,426,710		Suzuki et al.	06/20/95	382	135	
	(25)	5,481,377		Udagawa et al.	01/02/96	358	501	
	(26)	5,583,614		Hasuo et al.	12/10/96	355	201	
	(27)	5,640,253		Uchida et al.	06/17/97	358	501	
	(28)	5,671,277		Ikenoue et al.	09/23/97	380	7	
	(29)	5,721,788		Powell et al.	02/24/98	382	100	
	(30)	5,987,127		Ikenoue et al.	11/16/99	380	7	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials		O F F I C E	NUMBER	C O D E	PUBLICATION DATE (mm/dd/yy)	TRANSLATION Yes No	
	(2)	JP	02-052384	A	02/21/90	ABSTRACT ONLY	
	(3)	JP	02-111161	A	04/24/90	X	
	(4)	JP	02-120753	A	05/08/90	ABSTRACT ONLY	
	(5)	JP	02-266759	A	10/31/90	X	
	(6)	JP	03-120561	A	05/22/91	ABSTRACT ONLY	
	(31)	JP	61-285578	A	12/16/86	X	
	(32)	JP	62-256046	A	11/07/87	X	
	(33)	JP	02-096276	A	04/09/90	ABSTRACT ONLY	
	(34)	JP	04-009963	A	01/14/92	X	

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known			
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number		To Be Assigned	
				Filing Date		Concurrently	
				First Inventor		Yoshikazu IKENOUE et al.	
				Group Art Unit		To Be Assigned	
				Examiner Name		To Be Assigned	
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket No.		05058/16305	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials		O F F I C E	NUMBER	C O D E	PUBLICATION DATE (mm/dd/yy)	TRANSLATION Yes No	
	(35)	JP	04-343568	A	11/30/92	ABSTRACT ONLY	
OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials		Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published					
	(7)	Yasuhiro Nakamura and Kineo Matsui, "A Unified Coding Method of Image and Text Data Using Three-Level Micro-Patterns", Gazou Denshi Gakkaishi, Vol. 17, No. 1 (1988), pgs. 1-14					
	(36)	"Unauthorized Copy Prevention", IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, June 1975, pgs. 59-60					
	(37)	"Document Security System for Copy Machines", IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, January 1981, pgs. 3550-3551					
	(38)	"An Improved Method of Embedding Data Into Pictures by Modulo Masking", IEEE Transactions on Communications, March 1988, Vol. 36, No. 3, pgs. 315-331					
	(39)	"Embedding Secret Information Into a Dithered Multi-Level Image", MILCOM '90, IEEE, Vol. 1, pgs. 216-220					
	(40)	Komatsu et al., "Authentication System Using Concealed Image in Telematics", Memoirs of the School of Science & Engineering, Waseda University, No. 52, pgs. 45-60, 1988					
	(41)	Komatsu et al., "A Proposal on Digital Watermark in Document Image Communication and Its Application to Realizing a Signature", Electronics and Communications in Japan, Part 1, Vol. 73, No. 5, 1990 (translation pgs. 22-33)					
Examiner Signature					Date Considered		

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with the next communication to applicant.